

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT



Contact us:

**EMERGENCY CALL 911**

**Covina Police Department**

444. N. Citrus Ave.  
Covina, CA 91723

**Crime Prevention**

626-384-5630

cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

**Non-Emergency Dispatch**

626-384-5808

**Records Division**

(626) 384-5656

**Covina Jail**

(626) 384-5638

**Property / Evidence**

(626) 384-5645

**Traffic Division**

(626) 384-5674

**Detective Bureau**

(626) 384-5628

**Graffiti Hotline**

(626) 384-5599

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<http://covinaca.gov/cpd>

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## Holiday Season and Residential Burglary

The holiday season is meant to be a time of joy and relaxation; however, for criminals the season brings opportunities for crime. The Covina Police Department offers tips to prevent home burglaries in an effort to ensure a joyous holiday season. Take all reasonable steps to safeguard your homes this holiday season and year round:

Take the time to trim back any bushes or trees that block visibility of your house from the street.

Check all entryways into your home (windows and doors) to make sure that they are locked and secure. Sliding glass doors will be extra secure with a lock and a dowel in the door track.

If your home is equipped with an alarm system, make sure that you and your family are using it.



Studies show that alarm systems and visible advertisements (stickers, lawn signs) are some of the best deterrents against burglars. Use it properly to avoid false alarm fees.

If leaving your home for several hours find ways to make your house look occupied by placing interior and exterior lights on timers or leaving a radio or TV on.

Exterior holiday lights do more than make your house look festive. They also light up the areas around windows and doors where burglars may lurk.

Retain the receipts for all major purchases in a safe place. If possible, record the serial number of the property in the event the items are stolen.

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## Overnight Parking: Things You Need to Know

Overnight Parking Permits will NOT be needed from Wednesday 12/18/2013 through Wednesday 1/1/2014. Enforcement will resume at 2:00 AM on Thursday, 1/2/2014.

Effective January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, Daily Temporary

Overnight Parking Permits can only be purchased by credit or debit card using the machine that dispenses the Overnight Parking Permits to the front of the Covina Police Dept. located at 444 N. Citrus Avenue. The change to a cashless system will

provide a more efficient system, since the old system was unable to provide change for cash paying customers. If you have questions, contact the Covina Police Dept. Records section at 626-384-5656.

## Residential Burglary Prevention (Continued)

Be cautious about solicitors, especially during this time of year. A stop at your doorway may provide them the chance to scope the inside of your house for valuable items and map the layout for a later return.

If ordering items to be delivered to the house, schedule them to be delivered at a time when you will be home and able to accept the package. Packages left on doorsteps are susceptible to thieves passing through the neighborhood.

Many people love to display a brightly lit Christmas tree with gifts around the base. If visible through a window or doorway, this can be tempting for burglars scouting the neighborhood. Reconsider hiding the gifts in a secure place and placing them under the tree at the last minute.

Don't advertise any trips away from your home or travel plans on online social networking sites. Broadcasting your absences let people know that your house is unoccupied and vulnerable. Make sure that your children are doing the same and that they are careful about discussing travel plans with friends.

In the event that you are traveling for the holidays, consider finding a trusted neighbor to protect your home in your absence. Have all mail and newspapers collected or have your services suspended. Provide a key to that person so that they can make your house look occupied, either by turning on lights, turning on the radio, or moving a car in the driveway.

If leaving a dog at home for the holidays, consider having a trusted neighbor, family member, or friend pet sit at the house instead of using a kennel. Dogs of all sizes (and barks) can be a deterrent to burglars.

Lastly remember, there is no better way to prevent crime than having neighbors watch out for one another, and immediately reporting all suspicious activity to the police department.

## Economic Crime: Counterfeit Holiday Goods

Counterfeiting is one of the fastest growing economic crimes. Counterfeiters cost society billions of dollars in lost government revenues, foreign investments and local business profits. Counterfeiting and piracy impact public safety by funding organized crime, street gangs and even terrorism through the sales of these products.

During the holiday season, everyone is looking for good deals. Counterfeiting and Piracy are a false bargain that is often times not taken seriously as a criminal offense. Perhaps because sharing copyrighted music, movies, or buying an imitation purse doesn't feel like stealing to most people. The truth is, counterfeit goods can pose a serious health and safety risk to consumers, as well as the long-term costs to communities in the form of lost tax revenue, jobs and wages. Counterfeiting and piracy costs American businesses an estimated \$200 billion + each year in lost revenue.

Counterfeit products can be unsafe since there is no oversight, and consumers are being deceived into believing these are safe and legitimate products. There is no fool-proof way to know the difference between a bargain and a fake, but labels and packaging can be revealing indicators. Look for missing or expired "use by" dates, broken or missing safety seals, missing warranty information, or otherwise unusual packaging. Whether purchasing online or at a retail locations, only purchase from authorized retailers listed by the manufacturer. If you are uncertain whether a retailer acquired its products from a legitimate distributor, ask for verifiable information from the retailer about the source of the goods.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Covina curbside collection of Christmas trees takes place from Thursday 12/26 through Friday 1/10. Athens Services will collect Christmas trees with a separate vehicle on the regular trash collection day. Those whose collection day is Wednesday will have a one day delay in service due to Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Wednesday.

Single family residents, please place your tree curbside next to barrels and remember to remove ornaments, nails, tinsel, and stands attached to the tree. Flocked trees or trees coated with a fire retardant will also be accepted. Please do not wrap trees in plastic.

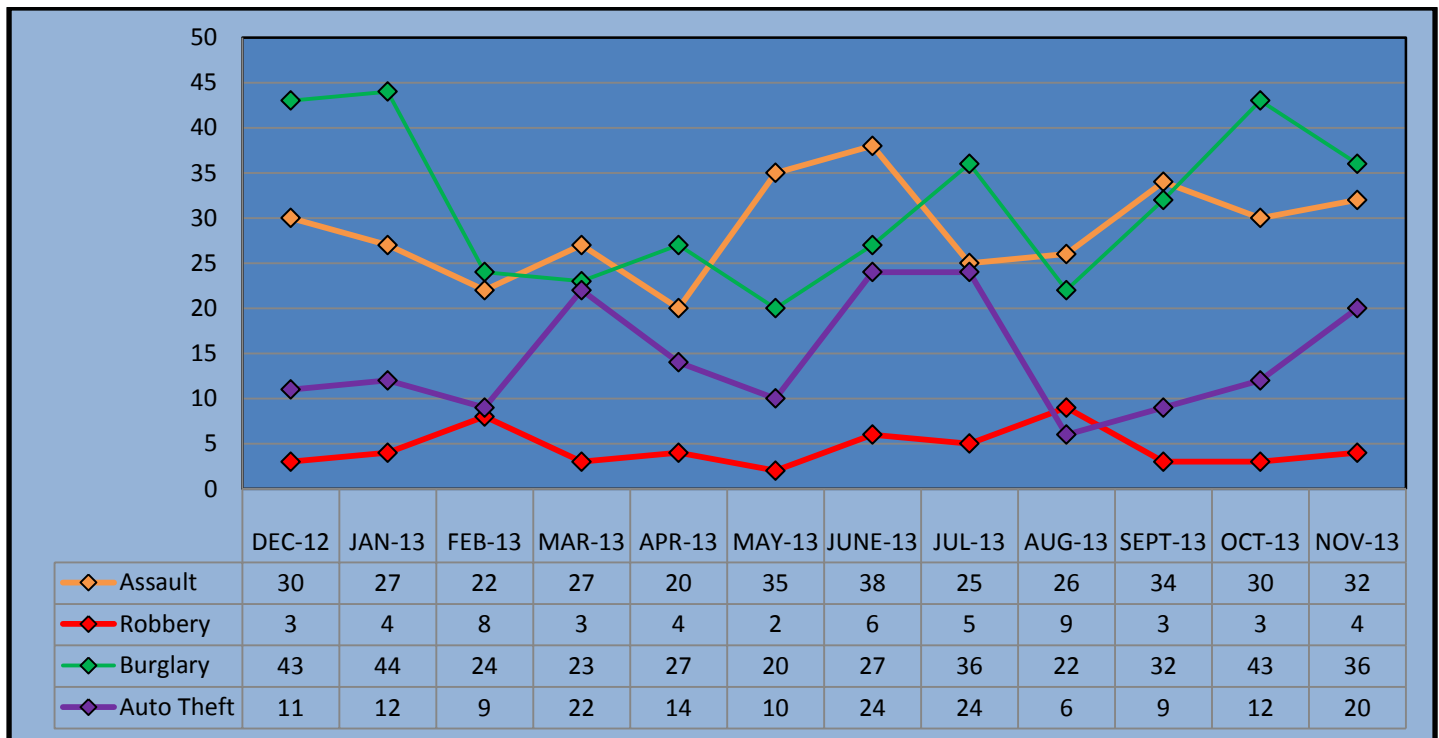
Residents who live in multi-family complexes with bin service should place trees curbside near the complex entrance on the regular trash collection day for single family residences in the area to ensure pick up. Trees will be collected free of charge and hauled to the landfill to be used as alternative daily cover.

*For more information, contact the Environmental Services Section at (626) 384-5480 or Athens Services at (626) 336-6100.*

*This program is sponsored by the City of Covina, Athens Services, and the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.*

Honor – Integrity – Service

## Covina Police Crime Statistics – November 2013



Click the link below to see the crime map

<http://covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereportscom>

**Violent Crimes -22%**

•Homicide, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault & Robbery

**Property Crime -25%**

•Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny & Arson

**Calls for Service -5%**



Percentages shown are increase or decrease from the previous year to date.